The Changes in the Management of Permanent Grasslands in the CR After Agriculture Restructuring at the End of the 20th Century

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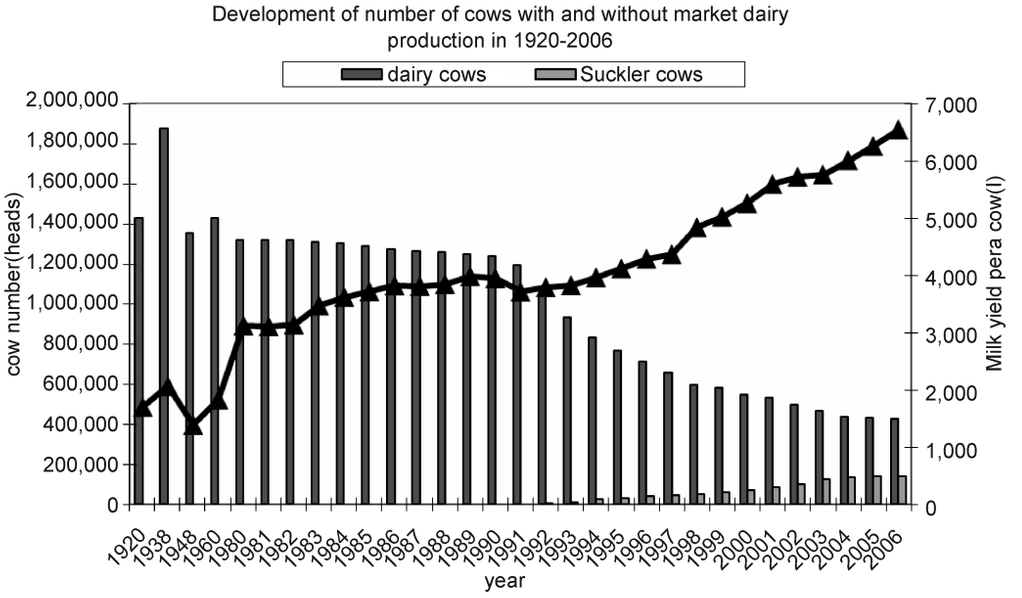
Key words : permanent grassland , forage , cattle , milk cow , suckler cow

Introduction Permanent grasslands cover an area of 974 ,000 ha in the Czech Republic . However , there was a decrease in the number of livestock from 1 , 236 thousand cows in 1990 to 568 ,000 cows in 2006 .

MaterialS and methods We used the method of analysis of long time series on the basis of CSO (Czech Statistical Office) data .

Results The results are presented in figure 1 . After economic reconstruction in 1990 there was a sharp decrease of dairy cattle numbers from 1 236 thousand heads of cows in 1990 to 568 ,000 cows in 2006 with a simultaneous increase of milk yield from 3 950 l to 6 540 l per a cow a year . From 1995 the number of beef cattle increased to 151 thousand in 2006 . The area of permanent grassland increased from 704 thousand ha to 974 thousand ha from 1990 till 2006 due to subsidies for planting pastures , which has a positive impact on the environment . However , forage use from grasslands decreased as a result of extensive utilisation (two-cut utilisation) , which leads to low quality of forage and increases the need for feeding concentrates up to 0 .30 kg kg^{-1} FCM milk . Global price increase of grain in 2007 increased the price of concentrates , and their high consumption makes milk production more expensive , the solution is intensive 3 to 4-cut utilisation of grasslands (Kohoutek , Pozdíšek , 2007) .



Conclusion It is necessary to intensify grassland utilisation for increased forage quality and decrease feeding concentrate in rations for dairy cattle and milk yield increases .

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